## milbon

## **Overseas Strategy Presentation**

Milbon Co., Ltd.

(TSE code: 4919) March 25, 2025

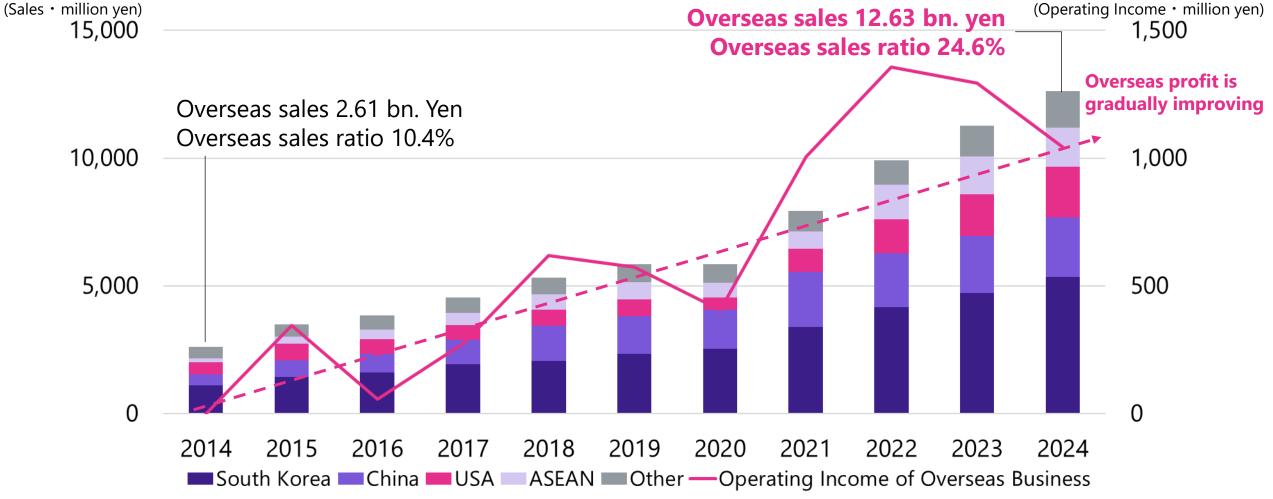
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These presentation materials are available on our website in PDF format: <a href="https://www.milbon.com/en/ir/">https://www.milbon.com/en/ir/</a>

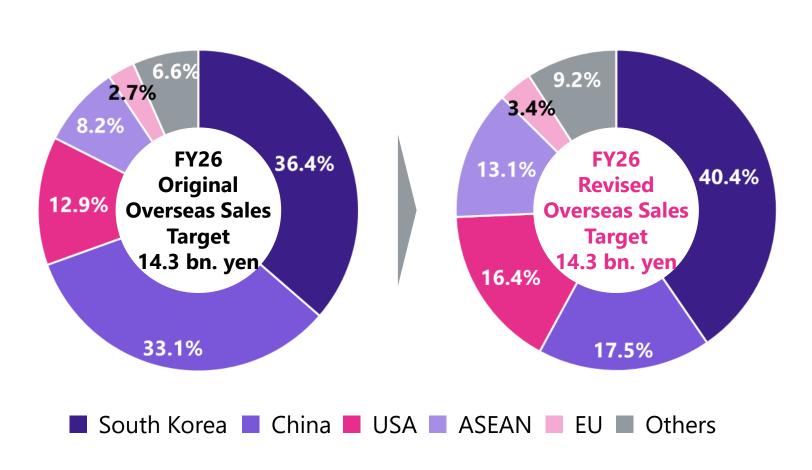
### **History of Overseas Expansion**

Leveraging our strong market share in Japan, we began full-fledged overseas expansion around 2010. By tailoring our business model to each region, we have grown our overseas sales ratio to approx. 25%.



### Revision of Our Mid-term Management Plan: Target Changes for Overseas Markets

The overall FY26 sales outlook for overseas remains unchanged. However, the outlook for China has been lowered due to rapid market changes, while the outlook for South Korea, the USA, and other countries has been raised.



## **Increased Growth Potential in the USA**

Further growth opportunities are emerging in the USA and EU, where the market size is substantial.

## **Potential for Market Leadership in South Korea**

Haircare product growth is accelerating, building on the stable growth of hair coloring products.

### **Lowering the Outlook for China**

The sales composition has been lowered due to the deteriorating macroeconomic environment.

### **Key Overseas Regions**

As the Chinese market slows down, the importance of the large and rapidly growing U.S. market is increasing. We aim to maintain stable growth in the high-margin South Korea while focusing on profitability in the U.S. market.



China

Market Size: Approx. ¥200 bn.

Our Sales Target for FY25: ¥2.3 bn.

ASEAN

Market Size: Approx. ¥80 bn.

Our Sales Target for FY25: ¥1.74 bn.

<sup>\*</sup> Market sizes are based on our research.

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### **Speaker Introduction**



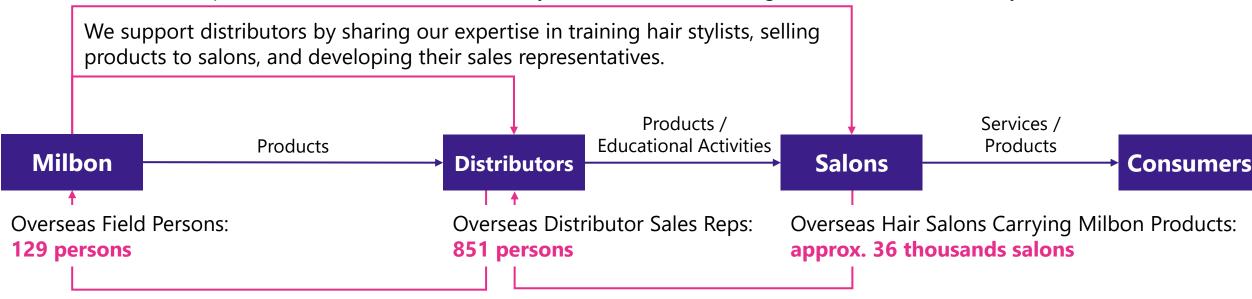
**Harumichi Okazaki** 

1996	Joined the Company
2009	Senior Manager of the Tokyo Sales Office (current Jingu-mae·Aoyama·Ginza Office)
2012	Founding member of MILBON(THAILAND)CO.,LTD.
2016	MILBON(THAILAND)CO.,LTD. President
2018	MILBON USA, INC. President
2022	Executive Officer, <b>Director of Global Sales and Marketing Headquarters</b>
2024	Board Director and Director of Global Sales and Marketing Headquarters, Director of FP Headquarters, and in charge of Education Planning

### **Shared Strength in Both Domestic and Overseas Markets: Business Model**

We stimulate demand for our products through educational activities for hair salons and maximize revenue through strong collaboration with distributors. By consistently implementing these initiatives, we have achieved sustainable growth.

Field Persons provide educational activities to key hair salons (in some regions\*1, we also sell directly to salons).



We earn the trust of distributors by increasing demand from hair salons and training their sales representatives.

Field activities by Field Persons increase the demand for Milbon products.

<sup>\*1</sup> China (Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu), the USA (Manhattan), Germany, and others.

<sup>\*</sup> Numbers are as of December 31, 2024.

### **External Factors Accelerating our Overseas Expansion**

## Our business is likely to be highly valued in the following market environments and competitive landscapes.

Market Environment In high-income countries, where hair salons and beauty techniques are advanced, the demand for beauty education and high-performance products is high.



Increasingly, competitors are shifting from B2B2C models involving distributors or salons to B2C models with direct consumer sales.

### Milbon's Strengths

### **Positioning**

Specializing in hair salons and hair stylists

### **Sales Model**

Educational sales activities for salons and collaboration with local distributors who are well-versed in local beauty culture

### **Products**

Development of high-performance products specializing in hair and hair salons



In regions with high standards of beauty techniques, our activities and premium products are a good match for salons, and many distributors understand our philosophy (the importance of educational activities for salons).



A competitor's shift to B2C has enhanced our value as specialists in salons, leading to increased support from salons and distributors.

## **Keys to Success in East Asia:**

Delivering Value to Salons Beyond the Role of a Manufacturer

By implementing activities focused on education, we have extended beyond just product-related interactions with salons. By expanding the following initiatives to other regions, we aim to earn greater support from salons.

STEP 1

### **Product Education Activities**

We conduct product-related technical training for hair stylists worldwide to foster trust in the Milbon brand.



### STEP2

### **Hairstylist Career Training**

In East Asia and ASEAN, we conduct educational events that support the career advancement of hairstylists, independent of products, to strengthen loyalty to the Milbon brand.



## STEP3

## Strategic Management Proposal for Salons

Each year, we announce the key points of salon management as our "Policy" and propose related products and educational offerings. This solidifies our position as a partner supporting overall salon management.



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### The Key to Success in South Korea: Collaboration with Distributors

We have become a key manufacturer for distributors by gaining support from hair salons through educational activities. Additionally, we have established cooperative relationships with distributors by assisting in the training of their sales representatives.

Market Environment South Korea is a high-income society, and has advanced hair salons and beauty techniques, leading to high demand for beauty education and high-performance products.

Competitive Landscape

Direct sales to salons, focusing on promotions and discounts, are common

### **Milbon Korea's Strengths**

### **Positioning**

Specializing in hair salons and hair stylists

### **Sales Model**

Distinguished from competitors through collaboration with distributors well-versed in local beauty practices and educational activities for hair salons.

### **Products**

Development of high-performance products specializing in hair and hair salons



Through educational activities conducted by our Field Persons, we have earned support from hair salons and established ourselves as an indispensable manufacturer for distributors.



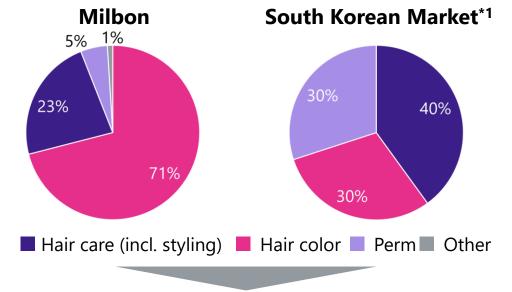
Additionally, we have enhanced the sales skills of distributor representatives through education, thereby gaining their support.

### **South Korea: Further Growth Potential**

We have established a strong presence in the South Korean market, with an estimated secondlargest market share, primarily in hair coloring products. There is potential for growth in haircare and perm products, making this region poised for further performance expansion.



### **Sales and Market Composition by Product Category**



Hair care: aiming for cross-selling for hair color products, primarily Aujua and Global Milbon.

Perm: developing products specifically tailored to perm customs in South Korea.

> \*1 The composition rate in the South Korean professional market is based on our own research.

<sup>\*</sup> Sales are in local currency, and OPM is in yen.

### **South Korea: Positive Impact on Other Countries**

In South Korea, we are gaining support and building connections with young hairstylists through educational activities and events. Additionally, we enhance our brand value by capturing the beauty trends they create and disseminating them internationally.

### **Hosting Events to Garner Support from Young Hairstylists**

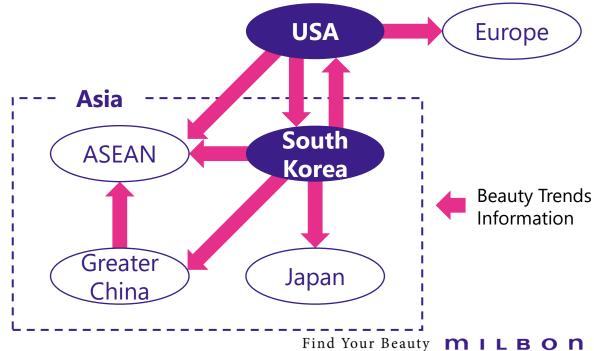






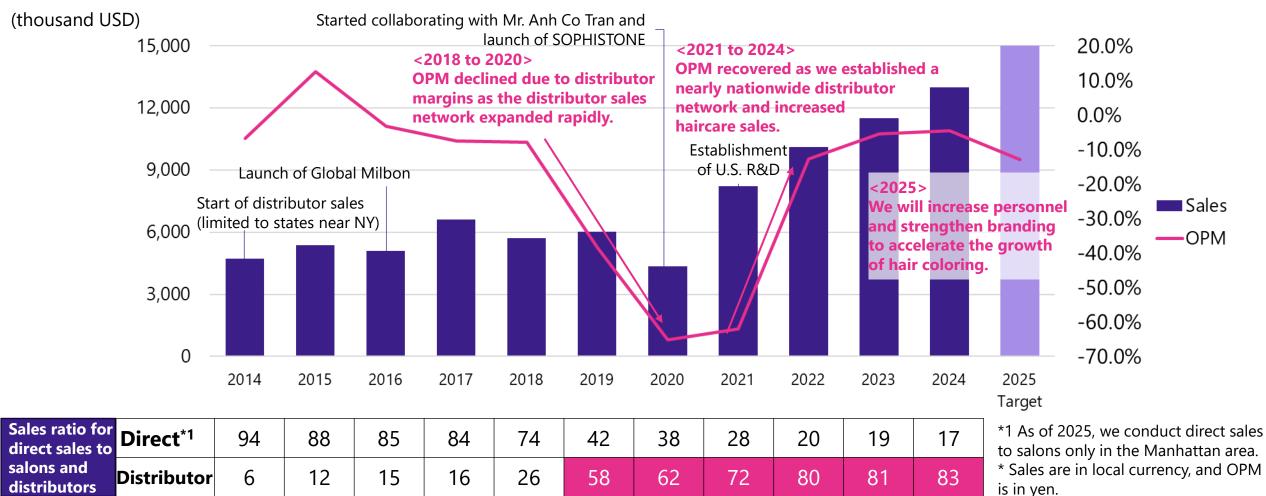
### **Flowchart of Beauty Trends**

South Korea significantly influences beauty trends across Asia while being influenced by the USA. We host seminars and disseminate trend information by Korean hairdressers throughout various Asian countries.



### **USA: Review of Business Development to Date**

Establishing a sales structure across the vast country and addressing hair types different from those in Asia were challenges. However, our promotion of product switching since 2014, as well as our building of a distributor sales network led to an acceleration of growth post-COVID-19.



Find Your Beauty MILBON

### **USA: Recent Growth Factors**

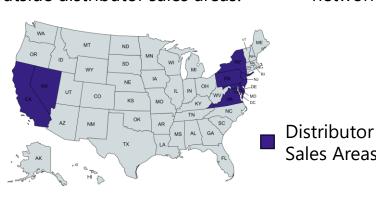
## The sales structure and product lineup has been gradually adapted for the U.S. market, laying the foundation for growth.

## **Establishment of a Sales and Educational Network for Salons Across North America via Distributors**

Our sales increased with the expansion of distributor sales areas and the rise in distributor sales reps.

#### **As of FY2018**

We sell directly to salons outside distributor sales areas.



#### As of FY2024

We have established a distributor network across North America.



Created with magachast zeet	
Sales of Milbon (K USD)	5,730
Distributors	3
Distributor Sales Reps	50

Sales of Milbon (K USD)	13,013
Distributors	9
Distributor Sales Reps	312

## **Establishment of a Product Portfolio Tailored to the U.S. Market**

### Main products before FY2016

Hair care: product effectiveness is highly rated, but packaging and lineup were not adapted to the U.S. market. Hair color: we lacked products suitable for non-Asian hair.



### Main products after FY2016

Global Milbon (Hair care and styling)







SOPHISTONE (Hair color for the U.S. and EU markets)



### **USA: Stable Hair Care Growth With Global Milbon**

# In the U.S. market, Global Milbon is highly regarded. Leveraging this, we will introduce haircare products to international markets, developed by our U.S. R&D.

## Professional Products to Enhance the Value of Salon Menus

Our in-salon treatment products stand out with their short treatment times, immediate results, and long-lasting effects.





## **Take-home Products to Boost Salon Sales**

Our take-home hair care products deliver immediate results and are exclusively available in salons, never through D2C channels, earning the trust of salon professionals.

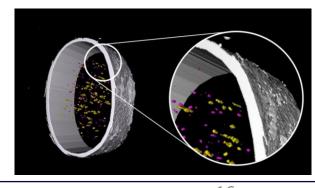




## Basic Research: The Foundation of Innovation

Utilizing the world's largest synchrotron radiation facility, SPring-8\*, we examine the effectiveness of our products by analyzing the internal structure of hair from around the globe.

\* SPring-8 is owned and operated by RIKEN, Institute of Physical and Chemical Research.





### Why the USA Now?

In South Korea, we have stimulated demand from salons through educational activities. In the USA, product appeal has created demand, as has distributor collaboration. We aim to establish a further competitive advantage in the USA by evolving to an educational model.

Market Environment The USA has a high demand for hairstylist education and highperformance products, making it the largest market in the world. Competitive However, the country's vastness makes efficient sales and educational activities challenging.

Landscape

Increasingly, competitors are shifting from B2B2C models involving distributors or salons to B2C models with direct consumer sales through retail stores or their own e-commerce platforms.

### Milbon's Strengths in the USA

### **Positioning**

Specializing in hair salons and hair stylists

### **Sales Model**

We have built a nationwide sales network in the **USA with distributors** and are **enhancing our** educational network for salons by increasing the number of Field Persons and distributor training.

### **Products**

**Our innovative haircare products** are highly rated especially in the USA

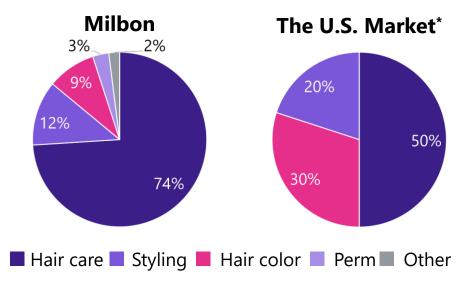
- Haircare products have become a competitive advantage, driving salon demand and strengthening distributor collaboration.
- **Competitors' shifts in sales strategies enhance Milbon's value to distributors and salons.**

The shift to an educational model is gradually progressing due to the development of distributor personnel and an increase in Field Persons.

### **USA: Accelerating the Growth of Hair Coloring Products**

We will enhance the branding of our hair coloring products through ambassador contract, in order to increase per-salon sales by cross-selling these products.

Sales and Market Composition by Product Category



Approx. 2,000 salons carry SOPHISTONE (hair color), compared to around 10,000 for Global Milbon (hair care and styling), highlighting significant growth potential for hair coloring products.

### The Potential of the Ambassador Contract



After establishing a sales and educational network in collaboration with distributors, we launched marketing initiatives with Mr. Anh Co Tran in 2020.

As a result, hair care (including styling items) sales have tripled in four years. Similar activities with a renowned colorist could be a catalyst for hair color growth.

<sup>\*</sup>The composition rate in the U.S. professional market is based on our own research.

### **Europe: Our Next Growth Market**

# Following the USA, we have started developing Europe as a growth market. Currently, we are expanding sales channels through commission sales in Germany and distributor sales in other countries.

### **Sales Channel to Salons in Germany**

We began distributor sales in 2018 but switched to direct sales with the establishment of a local subsidiary in 2022. Our growth has accelerated since 2024 due to commission contracts with several independent sales reps with experience at competing manufacturers.

## The Number of Salons Carrying Global Milbon in Germany



The number grew significantly as commission sales reps introduced Global Milbon to their customer salons.

### **Expansion of Sales Channels within the EU and EEA**

Distributor sales began in Greece and Norway in 2025. In Europe, we will gradually expand the number of sales countries through partnerships with distributors whose ideas align with our activities, while maintaining our base in Germany.

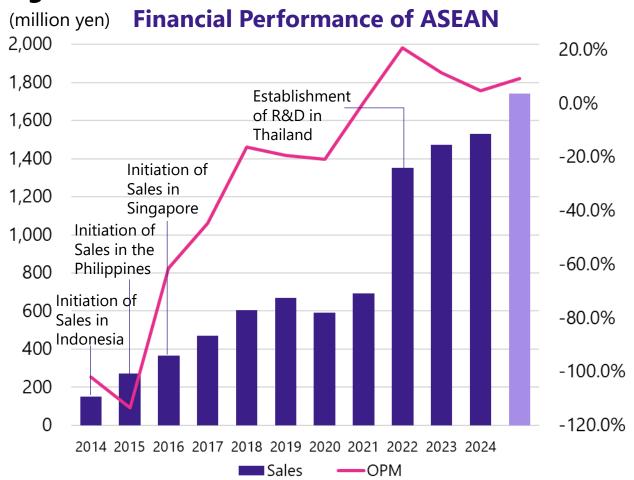
We will expand into new countries with minimal fixed costs by leveraging our distributors' bases and sales networks.



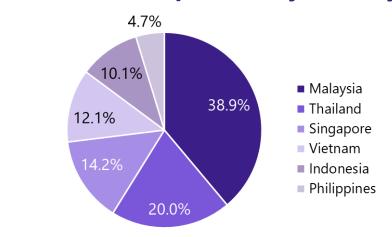
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### **ASEAN: A Region of Stable Profit Generation and Future Growth Potential**

We entered the market in 2013, starting with Thailand (sales and production), Vietnam, and Malaysia. Gradually expanding into more countries, we became profitable in 2021. We are now generating stable profits through activities focused on urban centers while awaiting market growth.



### **ASEAN Sales Composition by Country (FY2024)**



### **Basic Policy**

### Focusing on Major Cities

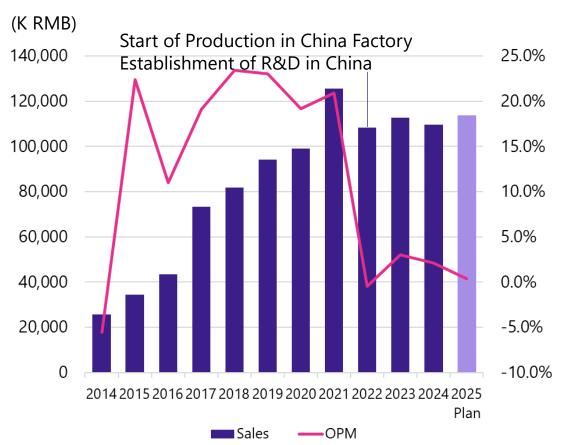
→ Hair salons capable of carrying high-end products are concentrated in urban areas with high income levels. In the ASEAN region, we will efficiently generate profits by focusing our activities on urban centers and collaborating with distributors, without significantly increasing our personnel.

<sup>\*</sup> Both Sales and OPM are in yen.

### **China: Adjusting Strategy to Meet Evolving Consumer Demand**

Our market presence has increased due to support activities for hair salons in response to the radical changes in market conditions after COVID-19. Our view that China has significant growth potential remains unchanged, and we have gained strong support from hair stylists.

### **Financial Performance of Milbon China**



### **Achievement**

Estimated Market Share: Ranked #4

→Our management strategies for hair salons, based on our "Policy," and the associated haircare product proposals are well-received, allowing us to outperform competitors in this challenging market environment.



→ Hairstylists in China are supportive of our initiatives.

<sup>\*</sup> Sales are in local currency, and OPM is in yen.

### **Management Priorities for the Future**

1. Achieving the No.1 position in South Korea and enhancing branding across Asia

2. Driving topline growth in the USA to enhance profitability

3. Establishing greater differentiation through education and "Policy" promotion in each country

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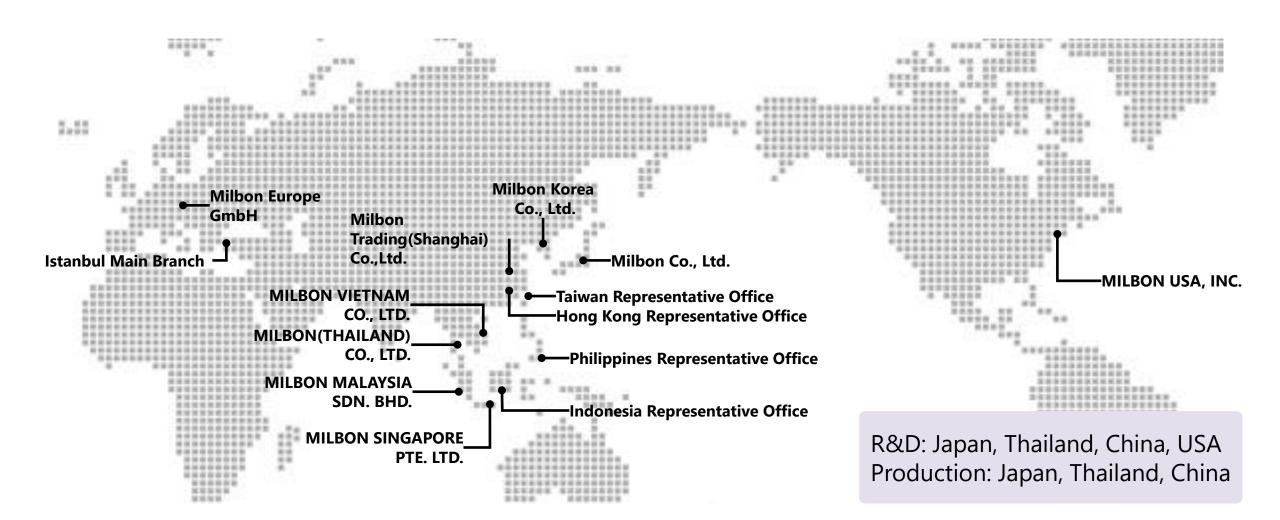
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### **Timeline of Overseas Expansion**

Region	Areas	~1998	2002	2003	2004	2007	2009	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2024	2025
North	USA	Distributor			Subsidia (M&A)	ary										R&D			
America	Canada																Distributor		
	Germany												Distributor				Subsidi	iary	
Europe	Norway																		Distributor
	Greece																		Distributor
Middle East	Turkey										Distributor							Branch	
	South Korea			Distributor			Subsidia (M&A)	ary	Busan E	Branch			Daejon	g Branch		Gwangj	u Branch		
East Asia	Taiwan	Distributor																	
East Asia	Hong Kong		Distributor																
	Mainland China					Subsidi	iary	Beijing	Branch				Chengd	u Branch			Factory	· R&D	
	Thailand								Subsidi Produc	iary (Sal tion)	es and						R&D		
	Vietnam								Distributor					Subsidi	iary				
ASEAN	Malaysia								Distributor					Subsidi	iary				
ASLAIN	Indonesia									Distributor									
	The Philippines										Distributor								
	Singapore											Distributor			Subsidi	iary			

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Distributor" = start of sales through local distributor / "Subsidiary" = establishment of local subsidiary © Milbon Co., Ltd. All right reserved.

### **Location of Offices**



## **Net Sales and Operating Income by Region (FY2024 to FY2026)**

	(Unit: million yen)	FY'24	FY'25 Target	Gap	Gap (%)	Actual gap Rate <sup>*1</sup> (%)
	Net Sales	38,684	40,850	2,165	5.6%	5.6%
Japan	Operating Income	5,796	6,000	203	3.5%	_
•	Margin(%)	15.0%	14.7%	_	_	_
	Net Sales	12,631	13,400	768	6.1%	9.2%
Overseas	Operating Income	1,043	1,000	(43)	(4.1%)	_
	Margin(%)	8.3%	7.5%	_	_	_
	Net Sales	5,345	5,583	237	4.5%	7.3%
South Kor	rea Operating Income	1,239	1,305	65	5.3%	_
	Margin(%)	23.2%	23.4%	_	_	_
	Net Sales	2,328	2,333	4	0.2%	3.9%
China	Operating Income	49	8	(41)	(83.5%)	_
	Margin(%)	2.1%	0.4%	_	_	_
	Net Sales	1,981	2,145	163	8.3%	15.3%
USA	Operating Income	(89)	(275)	(186)	_	_
	Margin(%)	(4.5%)	(12.8%)	_	_	_
	Net Sales	2,976	3,339	362	12.2%	13.6%
Other*2	Operating Income	(157)	(38)	118	_	_
	Margin(%)	(5.3%)	(1.1%)	_	_	_

FY'26	FY'26	Gan (%)
Target	<b>Original Target</b>	<b>Gap</b> (%)
43,700	43,700	_
7,118	8,200	(13.2%)
16.3%	18.8%	_
14,300	14,300	_
1,282	2,600	(50.7%)
9.0%	18.2%	<u> </u>
5,781	5,200	+11.2%
1,350	1,528	(11.6%)
23.4%	29.4%	_
2,500	4,740	(47.3%)
30	1,084	(97.2%)
1.2%	22.9%	<u> </u>
2,350	1,850	+27.0%
(180)	(64)	_
(7.7%)	(3.5%)	_
3,669	2,510	+46.2%
82	51	+60.8%
2.2%	2.1%	_

<sup>\*1</sup> Figures are the rates of change in real terms on a local currency basis.

<sup>\*2</sup> Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Turkey, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Germany, and Greece

### **Forex Assumption and Sensitivities**

### **Forex Assumption**

	FY2024 Results	FY2025 Assumption	FY2026 Assumption	FY2026 Original Assumption (Reference)
KRW	0.111 yen	0.108 yen	0.105 yen	0.093 yen
RMB	21.26 yen	20.5 yen	20.0 yen	17.0 yen
USD	152.24 yen	145.0 yen	140.0 yen	112.0 yen

### **Forex Sensitivities**

(million yen)

	FY2025 Assumption	Impact on Consolidated Net Sales	Impact on Consolidated Operating Income
KRW	0.108 yen	$\pm 0.001$ yen $\rightarrow$ 51	$\pm 0.001 \text{ yen} \rightarrow 38$
RMB	20.5 yen	±0.1 yen → 11	±0.1 yen → 2
USD	145.0 yen	±1 yen → 15	±1 yen → 4

### The Number of Field Persons (FP)

### The Number of FPs by Country

Upper column: Average number of FPs during the period (persons)

Lower column: Net sales per FP (million yen)

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Japan	328.2	335.4	350.2	361.4
	102	105	104	107
South Korea	26.0	32.8	33.4	33.2
	130	126	141	160
China	29.8	31.6	34.3	33.8
	72	66	65	68
USA	13.2	13.0	13.2	15.8
	68	102	123	125
Other*	36.0	36.2	38.2	43.0
	41	63	70	69

### **FP Recruitment and Training Status in Japan**

As of December 31, 2024

44 FPs joined in April 2024 and are currently on-

site OJT

10 FPs joined in October 2024 and are in training

(The above 54 FPs are not included in the left chart.)

<sup>\*</sup>Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Turkey, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Germany

### Sales Growth and Sales Ratio by Category in Japan and Overseas (Local Currency Basis)

FY2023

Japan	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	YTD	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD
Net Sales	+6.0%	+0.7%	+3.0%	+3.1%	+3.1%	+9.3%	+5.0%	+7.7%	+3.0%	+6.0%
Haircare	+9.5%	+2.9%	+4.0%	+4.6%	+4.9%	+9.1%	+8.9%	+13.4%	+7.1%	+9.4%
Hair Coloring	+1.9%	(3.5%)	(1.6%)	+0.3%	(0.8%)	+0.8%	(0.5%)	+1.1%	(0.5%)	+0.2%
Perm	(6.5%)	(17.1%)	+7.6%	(7.0%)	(7.0%)	+2.9%	+10.4%	(11.0%)	+3.3%	+1.6%
Cosmetics	(4.2%)	+18.4%	+25.5%	(12.7%)	+4.8%	+197.6%	+40.4%	(2.5%)	+0.4%	+52.8%
Others	(13.2%)	+133.3%	+150.8%	+102.1%	+104.8%	+60.8%	(35.0%)	(53.9%)	(35.6%)	(34.9%)
% to Sales										
Haircare	61.2%	63.0%	61.0%	65.5%	62.9%	61.2%	64.7%	64.3%	67.3%	64.6%
Hair Coloring	34.7%	31.8%	33.5%	30.3%	32.4%	32.1%	29.9%	31.5%	28.9%	30.4%
Perm	2.3%	3.0%	2.8%	2.0%	2.5%	2.2%	3.1%	2.3%	2.0%	2.4%
Cosmetics	1.5%	1.3%	1.6%	1.3%	1.4%	4.1%	1.8%	1.5%	1.2%	2.1%
Others	0.3%	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%
Courtle Marras	FY2023					FY2024				
South Korea	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD
Net Sales	+10.9%	+4.8%	+1.2%	+13.7%	+7.4%	+6.5%	+8.4%	+11.2%	+13.3%	+9.9%
Haircare	+14.4%	+13.5%	+1.1%	+29.0%	+13.9%	+20.1%	+14.5%	+23.6%	+13.0%	+17.6%
Hair Coloring	+9.2%	+1.4%	(0.0%)	+7.5%	+4.3%	+1.1%	+4.6%	+6.2%	+12.2%	+6.0%
Perm	+28.0%	+28.1%	+18.2%	+59.1%	+32.4%	+33.6%	+37.5%	+30.1%	+25.1%	+31.3%
% to Sales									_	
Haircare	20.7%	21.7%	21.4%	23.3%	21.8%	23.3%	23.0%	23.8%	23.2%	23.3%
Hair Coloring	74.9%	73.9%	73.6%	71.6%	73.5%	71.1%	71.3%	70.3%	70.9%	70.9%
Perm	4.0%	3.8%	4.2%	4.6%	4.1%	5.0%	4.8%	4.9%	5.1%	5.0%
Others	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%

<sup>\*</sup> The figures for Japan are based on shipment value. The overseas figure are based on local currency.

FY2024

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### Sales Growth and Sales Ratio by Category in Japan and Overseas (Local Currency Basis)

China	FY2023				FY2024					
China	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD
Net Sales	(2.7%)	+22.4%	(6.1%)	+5.8%	+3.8%	+4.3%	(16.5%)	+0.0%	+2.0%	(2.7%)
Haircare	+11.0%	+35.7%	(7.3%)	+15.9%	+12.0%	+6.2%	(3.3%)	+8.3%	+3.4%	+3.6%
Hair Coloring	(14.0%)	+8.4%	(5.2%)	(8.5%)	(5.1%)	(0.6%)	(33.7%)	(9.1%)	(3.5%)	(12.7%)
Perm	(23.5%)	+25.8%	+0.4%	(0.7%)	(3.8%)	+19.0%	(14.5%)	(13.8%)	+14.8%	+2.1%
% to Sales										
Haircare	54.8%	53.5%	53.9%	61.9%	55.8%	55.8%	62.0%	58.4%	62.8%	59.5%
Hair Coloring	39.3%	41.7%	40.0%	31.7%	38.4%	37.5%	33.1%	36.3%	30.0%	34.5%
Perm	5.9%	4.8%	6.1%	6.4%	5.8%	6.7%	5.0%	5.3%	7.2%	6.0%
Others	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

LICA	FY2023				FY2024					
USA	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD	1Q	2Q	3 <b>Q</b>	4Q	YTD
Net Sales	+13.5%	+19.3%	+56.0%	(15.9%)	+13.9%	+8.5%	+2.2%	+12.0%	+31.1%	+13.1%
Haircare	+15.5%	+18.1%	+64.9%	(15.2%)	+15.7%	+6.0%	+4.8%	+12.7%	+32.6%	+13.8%
Hair Coloring	+10.6%	+27.0%	+59.8%	(4.5%)	+18.8%	+25.9%	(6.2%)	+3.2%	+22.4%	+10.4%
Perm	(1.5%)	+26.4%	+25.7%	(31.8%)	+1.0%	(19.6%)	(21.3%)	(8.7%)	+22.3%	(8.7%)
% to Sales										
Haircare	85.7%	83.8%	87.3%	85.6%	85.6%	83.7%	85.9%	87.8%	86.5%	86.1%
Hair Coloring	9.1%	9.7%	7.8%	9.6%	9.0%	10.6%	8.9%	7.1%	9.0%	8.8%
Perm	4.2%	4.8%	3.3%	3.6%	4.0%	3.1%	3.7%	2.7%	3.4%	3.2%
Others	1.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.2%	1.4%	2.6%	1.5%	2.4%	1.1%	1.9%

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